



FEBRUARY – MARCH 2025

# NORTHWEST ILLINOIS BIRD AND NATURE ALLIANCE



A chapter of the National Audubon Society

The Northwest Illinois Bird and Nature Alliance celebrates diversity in nature and among the people and communities with whom we work. We are dedicated to providing an inclusive, welcoming, and judgement-free atmosphere where people of all experience levels, abilities, identity groups, and cultural backgrounds are actively encouraged to participate.

Scan QR to visit



[nwillbirdnaturealliance.org](http://nwillbirdnaturealliance.org)

## NIAS MONTHLY PROGRAMS

Most programs are held the first Tuesday of the month (Sept.-May) at St. John United Church of Christ, 1010 Park Blvd., Freeport and begin at 7 p.m., followed by refreshments. All programs and events are open to the public. The building is fully accessible.

Check the current newsletter or our website for specific monthly details, special events or any changes to the usual time and place.

**PLEASE JOIN US!**

*Please note: schedule and location of programs are subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances. Please see newsletter and website for up-to-date information.*

### INSIDE THIS NEWSLETTER:

2. Calendar Considerations  
Field Trips
3. Programs and Events
4. Birdathon  
Stephenson County Bird Count Conservation Committee
5. Christmas Bird Count  
Beginning Birder Club
6. Thank You!
7. New Preserve Species

Feature Bird: Srikanth Vv (vksrikanth), information from [allaboutbirds.org](http://allaboutbirds.org)

Wintering Raptors of Illinois & Wisconsin photo by Robert Visconti

Eastern tiger salamander photos by Dr. Allison Sacerdote-Velat

*"Hooded" is something of an understatement for this extravagantly crested little duck. Adult males are a sight to behold, with sharp black-and-white patterns set off by chestnut flanks. Females get their own distinctive elegance from their cinnamon crest. Hooded Mergansers are fairly common on small ponds and rivers, where they dive for fish, crayfish, and other food, seizing it in their thin, serrated bills. They nest in tree cavities; the ducklings depart with a bold leap to the forest floor when only one day old.*

**Hooded Merganser** *Lophodytes cucullatus*

## WINTERING RAPTORS OF ILLINOIS & WISCONSIN

Presenter **Vic Berardi**

February 4, 2025 | 7:00pm

St. John United Church of Christ, Freeport, IL



Vic Berardi, founder of the all-volunteer Illinois Beach State Park Hawkwatch and well-known raptor photographer, will discuss wintering raptors of Illinois and Wisconsin. Emphasis will be raptor descriptions and possible locations to find these birds

in the winter months. Vic spends a great deal of time in the winter searching for raptors and photographing them.

His photographs have been used by several conservation organizations and in raptor field guides. His book contributions include, "Stokes Field Guide to the Birds of North America" by Donald & Lillian Stokes, "Hawks From Every Angle" and "Hawks At A Distance" by Jerry Liguori, "Birds of Prey: Hawks, Eagles, Falcons, and Vultures of North America" by Pete Dunne with Kevin Carlson, "The Crossley Guide: Raptors" by Richard Crossley, Jerry Liguori and Brian Sullivan and the "Pembina Valley Raptor Field Guide." Most recently he has contributed many photos for the new HawkWatch International, HWI Raptor ID app co-authored by Jerry Liguori and Brian Sullivan and has made contributions to the latest raptor book by Brian Wheeler, "Birds of Prey of the East: A Field Guide."

## NORTHERN ILLINOIS AMPHIBIANS: THEIR NATURAL HISTORY AND THEIR CONSERVATION TRENDS

Presenter **Dr. Allison Sacerdote-Velat**

March 4, 2025 | 7:00pm

A hybrid program that will be offered in person at the church or via Zoom.

St. John United Church of Christ, Freeport, IL



This presentation by Dr. Allison Sacerdote-Velat will provide general natural history information on northern Illinois frog and salamander species, as well as an overview of their challenges and opportunities for conservation. Dr. Sacerdote-Velat is the Curator of Biology & Herpetology/VP of Conservation Research at the Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum of the Chicago Academy of Sciences, conducting research focused on conservation and restoration of local amphibians and reptiles including the wood frog, blue-spotted salamander, and smooth greensnake. Allison also directs the Calling Frog Survey, a community science program that engages and trains over 200 volunteers annually to monitor breeding frog populations across the northeastern Illinois and northwestern Indiana regions of the Chicago Wilderness.

All members of the Bird and Nature Alliance (that we have emails for), will receive the zoom link the week before the program. If you are not on our email list, please email [nwillbirdnaturealliance@gmail.com](mailto:nwillbirdnaturealliance@gmail.com) to receive your zoom link. Zoom from home or come in-person to Zoom at St. John's.

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Doug and Audrey Firebaugh – Freeport  
Dave Johnston – Lanark  
Vikki Alex – Ridott

# CALENDAR

# FIELD TRIPS

**February 4** – Wintering Raptors of Illinois & Wisconsin, presented by Vic Berardi, Program starts at 7:00 p.m. (see cover for more details)

**February 15** – Youth Bird Club, 10:30 a.m., Freeport Public Library (see page 5 for more details)

**February 18** – Nicholas Conservatory Field Trip (see page 3 for details)

**March 4** – Northern Illinois amphibians: their natural history and their conservation trends, presented by Dr. Allison Sacerdote-Velat, Program starts at 7:00 p.m.

*Note: this is a hybrid program that will be offered in person at the church or via Zoom. (see cover for more details)*

**March 11** – Board meeting at St. John United Church of Christ at 7:00 p.m.

**March 15** – Youth Bird Club, 10:30 a.m., Freeport Public Library (see page 5 for more details)

**March 15** – Woodcock Watch, 7:00 p.m. (see page 3 for details)

**March 18** – Movie showings: Emmy nominated "Moved by Waters" and "Places to Be Wild" will be shown at the Freeport Public Library in the evening. **Watch our Facebook Page and upcoming emails for more information and exact time.**

**March 20** – Woodcock Watch, 7:00 p.m. (see adjacent column for details)

**March 26** – Woodcock Watch, 7:00 p.m. (see adjacent column for details)

**April 1** – Field Trip: Blooming Pasque Flowers at the Freeport Prairie, 2:00-3:00 p.m. (see page 3 for details)

**April 9** – Annual Banquet at Highland Community College at 5:30 p.m.

**April 12** – 2025 Midwest Crane Count (see page 3 for details)

**May 10** – Save the Date: Northwest Illinois Bird and Nature Alliance will again be participating in the annual Spring Bird Count (see page 4 for details)

## NICHOLAS CONSERVATORY FIELD TRIP

Tuesday, February 18

10:00 to 11:30 a.m. (Carpool 9:15 a.m.)

1354 N 2nd St, Rockford, IL

Leader: Chris Kruger 815-238-9259

Take a break from winter! Join us for a tour of Illinois' third largest conservatory. Located on the Rock River in Rockford, the facility offers tropical plants, water features, sculptures, and seating areas. The annual orchid exhibit includes hundreds of tropical orchid creatively arranged throughout the conservatory. Find more information at [nicholasconservatory.com](http://nicholasconservatory.com)

Admission on Tropical Tuesdays is \$5. Please bring cash so we can pay as a group.

Carpool from Harbor Freight at 9:15 am or meet us at the conservatory at 10:00 am. Expected return time to Freeport is 12:15 pm.

*Optional: Some of us may go to lunch at a nearby restaurant when we return to Freeport.*

**Call or text Chris Kruger 815-238-9259 to sign up for this trip by Feb 10th. We need 10-12 people for a guided tour. Feel free to call after the deadline to see if we can accommodate you.**

## FIELD TRIP: BLOOMING PASQUE FLOWERS AT THE FREEPORT PRAIRIE

Tuesday, April 1, 2:00-3:00 p.m.

Coordinator: Mary Blackmore

815-938-3204

Join us as we admire one of the prairie's harbingers of spring, the Pasque Flower. Unlike the crocus which it resembles, a Pasque Flower, *Pulsatilla patens*, is a member of the buttercup family. In early spring the plant sends up a flower stalk in advance of leaves so what you see are delicate pale violet blooms nestled in the muted tan tangle of last year's prairie grasses. Come and see how Pasque Flower blooms actually move to track the sun.

*The Freeport Prairie is an Illinois Nature Preserve located on Freeport's south side.*

**NOTE: Meet in the preserve's new parking area off of Meadows Dr., adjacent to the northwest corner of the prairie. Enter through the curb cut which will be flagged for better visibility. If the weather is questionable, call Mary.**



**VIEW OUR CALENDAR CONSIDERATIONS AT:**

[nwilbirdnaturealliance.org/news/calendar/](http://nwilbirdnaturealliance.org/news/calendar/)



### Photos from Juliet Moderow's monthly bird club held at the Freeport Public Library.

*In November the children learned how birds eat different foods (above).*

*In December the children made bird ornaments and bird feeders (right).*

*photos by Juliet Moderow*



<b>M</b> Meeting	<b>P</b> Program
<b>F</b> Field Trip	<b>E</b> Event
<b>S</b> Stewardship	<b>O</b> Other



# PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

## WOODCOCK WATCHES

**Saturday, March 15, 7:00 p.m.**

Coordinator: Mary Blackmore  
815-938-3204

**Thursday, March 20, 7:00 p.m.**

*Happy Equinox!*

Coordinator: Mary Blackmore  
815-938-3204

**Wednesday, March 26, 7:00 p.m.**

Coordinator: Anne Straight  
706-248-9344

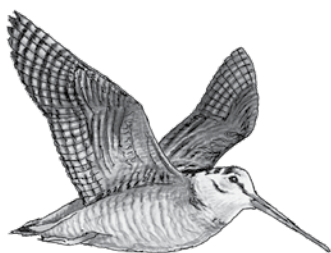
Join us for any or all of these evening outings to watch and listen for American Woodcocks performing their amazing courtship displays. Last year we were treated to both flight and ground displays which were fantastic!

The woodcock's "Sky Dance" itself is part ground-strutting and part zig-zagging flight, barely visible in the early evening sky. More fascinating perhaps are the variety of sounds that go with it, the repetitious vocal "peent!" followed by the twittering and chirping sounds made when air rushes through primary flight feathers during the bird's flight. On a quiet evening it is pure audio magic.

In the past we have had 3-6 woodcocks performing their twilight displays for about 3-4 weeks. When and if this begins is an educated guess, so be sure to call the listed leader to register in advance and to receive confirmation that the birds have returned and that the weather is suitable.

Our Elkhorn Creek Biodiversity Preserve is located about 3 miles southwest of Forreton in the southeast corner of West Grove and Freeport Roads. The parking lot is off of West Grove Rd. We do some walking so be aware that the ground is uneven in some areas. Bring a flashlight.

Make time to experience this unique avian harbinger of spring. The joy will be all yours.



## SAVE THE DATE: SPRING BANQUET

**Wednesday, April 9th with David Olson  
presenting Yellowstone Unveiled**

David and Adrienne Olson are back for another great show! Save the date as you will not want to miss our 2025 banquet featuring Yellowstone Unveiled. Join us as David and Adrienne Olson, photographers and naturalists, share their insights and images of the greater Yellowstone National Park ecosystem. David has traveled to Yellowstone now for over 25 years learning its many secrets. They now conduct tours to the park, and as part of his lifelong dedication, he also visits the park to produce new photographs whenever he can. They will show us pictures and share fascinating tales and interesting facts that make this place still one of the most incredible destinations in the world.

***Check our website or your mailbox for future information regarding our spring banquet!***



## ANNUAL MIDWEST CRANE COUNT

The 2025 Midwest Crane Count will be held on Saturday, April 12th. Throughout the year our chapter offers several opportunities for citizen science. One of those opportunities is the Midwest Crane Count. Anyone can participate in the count. Experience is not needed. If you are an inexperienced counter and want to learn more about cranes, we can partner you with someone who has more experience.

The count starts at 5:30 a.m. and concludes at 7:30 a.m. with breakfast with the group offered for those who want to share stories about their morning immersed with nature.

***If you would like to participate in the Midwest Crane Count on April 12th or you would like more details contact Teresa Smith at 815-238-3963.***



**SAVE THE DATE**  
**MAY 10, STARTING AT 10:00 A.M.**  
**OAKDALE NATURE PRESERVE**

# Birdathon

*Your money goes where the birds go*



## STEPHENSON COUNTY SPRING BIRD COUNT 2025

**On Saturday, May 10, 2025, Northwest Illinois Bird and Nature Alliance will again be participating in the annual Spring Bird Count.**

We are responsible for Stephenson County. The count is conducted just like the Christmas Bird Count except that instead of a circle, the count area is the entire county. All 102 counties in Illinois are counted annually on the same day. The Illinois Natural History Survey coordinates the counts, and has been doing so for well over 50 years.

We are looking for volunteers who will be available on May 10 to participate in this important Citizen Science endeavor. If you live in the county, and would like to count birds at your feeder, we will welcome that data, or if you are available to be assigned a prime territory within Stephenson County, either way, please contact Carol Beatty, the Stephenson County Compiler, at [cjbeatty17@gmail.com](mailto:cjbeatty17@gmail.com). It is a fun day, and it is great to see the wonderful birds in their breeding plumage!



## WANTED: BIRDATHON BIRDERS!

**If you enjoy watching birds during spring migration, we invite you to join our 2025 Birdathon fundraiser on Sunday, May 4!**

Participating as a Birdathon birder is not only fun, but it is also rewarding! Your efforts result in funds being raised for several organizations involved in bird conservation work along the Mississippi Flyway and in Central America, the winter home to many of "our" birds.

Last year's Birdathon raised over \$3,000 that was distributed to National Audubon's Mississippi River Initiative, Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin, Sand Bluff Bird Observatory, Stewards of the Upper Mississippi River Refuge, the Belize Audubon Society, and our organization, the Northwest Illinois Bird and Nature Alliance. All of the groups work to improve habitat along the migration routes of our feathered friends, and to provide educational opportunities for the public.

***Birdathon participation is easy: get pledges, go birdwatching on Birdathon Day and collect pledges.***

- **GET PLEDGES** – Names of Birdathon birders (including yours!) will appear on a pledge form in our next newsletter and on pledge forms at our April banquet. You also may ask anyone you choose – friends, relatives, co-workers – to make a pledge per species that you will see. A 10 cents per species pledge is common, but donors can pledge any amount or simply make a flat donation regardless of how many species you see.
- **BIRDING** – Have a blast on May 4! You can bird alone, with a friend or family member, or join a team (teams vie for the coveted Cardinal-on-a-Stick trophy!). You can bird for a few hours or all day. You can bird in your yard, at a park, or at a series of sites, in or out-of-state.
- **COLLECT PLEDGES** – Let your sponsors know how many species you saw and how much they owe you, then send your pledge checks to the Alliance treasurer. That's it!

*Birdathon participation is easy, fun and rewarding. We hope you can join us! If you would like to participate or would like more information, contact Kara Gallup at [karagallup@msn.com](mailto:karagallup@msn.com) or Mary Blackmore at 815-938-3204.*

## CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

The City of Freeport has recently renewed its application to remain a Bird City Illinois, a recognition originally awarded in 2021. Bird City Illinois recognizes communities that implement sound bird-conservation practices, enhancing the environment for birds, and educating the public about the relationship between birds and people and how that contributes to a healthy community. Freeport is currently one of 10 municipalities in Illinois to have this designation.

To be a Bird City, a municipality must complete a minimum of 9 actions from 4 different categories that include Habitat, Threats to Birds, Education and Engagement, and Sustainability. This also

includes an annual proclamation read at City Council recognizing World Migratory Bird Day and hold a public event, (which you can save the date for our event on May 10, 2025 at Oakdale Nature Preserve!). In addition, the municipality must also have a Resolution read and voted on by council members every three years to support the Bird City Initiative, which was completed on November 18, 2024 with a vote 7-1.

Our chapter helped fulfill many of the criteria as well as pay for the cost of the application and renewal fee. Juliet Moderow led the application process and documented the work done by other groups and organizations that fulfill additional criteria. These organizations

include the Freeport Park District, Freeport Public Library, University of Illinois Extension, Jane Addamsland Park Foundation, Freeport Student Garden, Environmental Study Group, the Bluebird monitors at Park Hills Golf Course, and the Pretzel Pickers. In 2021, Freeport completed 18 criteria, but over the past three years, these organizations helped Freeport complete 29 actions. You can read all of the completed achievements on the Bird City website or if you would like to see a copy, contact one of the board members.

**To learn more, visit [www.birdcity.org/illinois/freeport](http://www.birdcity.org/illinois/freeport)**



# CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

The Northwest Illinois Bird and Nature Alliance participated in the 125th running of the Christmas Bird Count on December 14, 2024. Our chapter did its very first count on December 15, 1974. Since then we have participated every year except for three years when we chose to cancel due to inclement weather. The CBC is the longest running citizen science project in the world, and the data is used to study trends in bird populations in different regions during this time of year, which is the non-breeding season for most birds in North America. It takes place in many areas of the Western Hemisphere, from north of the Arctic Circle to South America. The state of Illinois alone has over sixty counts reporting. Each and every count covers an area which is a fifteen mile diameter circle. Our circle is centered in Read Park in Freeport.

The day of our count came with a somewhat ominous weather forecast. Freezing rain was predicted, and the time which it was to begin was uncertain. The decision to go ahead and not postpone the count was made. Fortunately the freezing rain did not begin until the afternoon which allowed field counters to adequately cover their portion of the circle and get home safely. Seventeen field counters and five feeder counters participated in gathering our data. The compilation of this data will be forwarded to the National Audubon Society CBC central database where it

will be edited by the Illinois regional editor before it is officially entered. We tallied a total of 4,978 birds, representing 46 different species on count day. The number of birds was down about 2,200 from last year, while the number of species was one more than last year. As I am often reminding, year to year fluctuations are to be expected in CBC data due to various reasons. It is long term trends that make CBC data so valuable.

Here are some highlights and compiler comments from our observations on count day. While the total number of birds was down from last year, this difference was largely because of an approximately 1,000 decline in the number of Canada Geese seen. This could be because most areas of still water were frozen causing the geese to disperse. However other species also tallied significant declines, such as American Tree Sparrow and Dark-eyed Junco. House Sparrows tallied the lowest number since 2006. A new species for our circle this year was a Hooded Merganser, seen on the Pecatonica River north of Freeport. Northern Flickers had the highest ever number for us at fourteen individuals. Bald Eagles were observed for the 21st year in a row compared with only three observations before 2004 in our count history. This points to something positive that we humans did, meaning the banning of DDT. A relative newcomer in our CBC circle is Eurasian Tree Sparrow

which was seen for the seventh year in a row, after zero observations before that.

A complete list of species observed, and the tally for each species, can be accessed online at [www.christmasbirdcount.org](http://www.christmasbirdcount.org). Realize that it may take a while for the results to be entered into the database and be reviewed by the state editor. You can also get results from other count circles at this website. This year's top ten list for our count is as follows; European Starling (1,733), Canada Goose (644), House Sparrow (515), Rock Pigeon (444), Dark-eyed Junco (259), American Tree Sparrow (144), Mallard (140), American Crow (137), American Goldfinch (116) and House Finch (95).

Thank you to the following individuals for helping with this year's count. Field observers were Carol Beatty, Richard Benning, Mary Blackmore, Paul Brown, Judy Corrie, Jeremy Dixon, Leah Dixon, Wyatt Dixon, Laura Dufford, Kara Gallup, Gary Gordon, Mary Pat Gordon, Anita Nienhuis, Fran Shriver, Teresa Smith, Tim Smith and Anne Straight. Feeder counters were Somer Elgin, Chris Fye, Nancy Larson, Jeff Shriver and Lurane Slaght. Special thanks to Tim Smith for storing our CBC data in digital format.

*– Richard Benning  
Christmas Bird Count Compiler;  
Freeport Circle*

## BEGINNING BIRDER CLUB

**Third Saturday of the month  
through April!**

**Freeport Public Library  
Meeting Room A/B**

**10:30 a.m. to approximately 12:00 p.m.  
Registration required | Join Anytime!**

This is a fun, educational program for youths to learn about different topics about birds. Lessons will be tailored for ages 6-10. An adult must be present with the youth during the entire program. All sessions are independent from each other, so you are welcome to attend any that you are able and/or interested.

Each program will be held at 10:30 am to approximately 12:00 pm on the third Saturday of the month (to remember, third rhymes with bird!). Sessions will be held at the Freeport Public Library in meeting room A/B, but we will try to end the session outside to look for birds. Please dress appropriately for the weather as well. Please register in advance as space is limited and to help determine amount of materials needed for each session.

**To register contact Juliet Moderow at  
[moderowja@gmail.com](mailto:moderowja@gmail.com)  
201-233-0946 or by this form:  
<https://forms.gle/W16pZ5Aiyt8Hh7At8>**

### TOPICS:

**February 15** – Bird reproduction: We will learn about bird reproduction, egg laying, nest building, etc.

**March 15** – Bird migration & movement: We will learn about migration and what birds endure during the journey.

*The last bird club will be April 19 and described in the next newsletter.*







## THE SLOTH STORYTELLING HOUR

**Our December program was our Sloth Storytelling Hour. We want to thank the following for sharing their delightful stories with us!**

*Photo by Juliet Moderow | From left to right: Teresa Smith, Suzanne Falconer, Kathy Weber, Mary Blackmore, Elizabeth Boettner, Don Miller, Steve Simpson, and Richard Benning*

Sloth: Stock Illustration

# THANK YOU!

- Gary Gordon, Jeff Shriver, and Juliet Moderow for leading the latest weekly sessions of Bird Club at the Boys and Girls Club of Freeport.
- Volunteers who helped process prairie seeds: Jim and Pam Richards, Anita and David Nienhuis, Annette Happ, Leanne Konkel-Briggs, Paul Brown, Anne Straight, Judy Corrie, Bernard Lischwe, Mary Blackmore, Nancy Ocken, Jon Briggs, and Suzanne Falconer. Special thanks go to Anita and her family for their outstanding hospitality and to everyone who provided those delicious homemade treats!
- Richard Benning for doing such a great job as our Christmas Bird Count compiler.
- Shey Lowman for updating species lists for both preserves.
- Elizabeth Boettner and Mary Blackmore for contacting volunteers for preserves stewardship.
- Teresa Smith, Laura Dufford and Mary Blackmore for serving as the Alliance nominating committee, and to everyone who agreed to take a turn on our board.
- Juliet Moderow for creating an updated local bird checklist.
- Recent field trip and event leaders: Juliet Moderow and Mary Blackmore.
- Jim and Pam Richards, Kara Gallup, and Mary Blackmore for donating prairie seed for overseeding at our Silver Creek Biodiversity Preserve.
- November stewardship and seed collecting volunteers: Pam Richards, Judy Corrie, Bernard Lischwe, Paul Brown, Anne Straight and Mary Blackmore.
- Jim Richards for creating our burn plans and for completing the application for our burn permit renewal to the Illinois EPA.
- Esther Schippers and Wendy Dahlberg for their recent donations.
- Volunteers who provided homemade treats for break time at all stewardship events at our preserves in 2024: Anne Straight, Bernard and Deb Lischwe, Juliet Moderow, Nancy Ocken, Pam Richards, Teresa Smith, Kara Gallup, Mary Blackmore, Anita Nienhuis and Judy Corrie.
- Jeff Shriver for taking over newsletter mailing, and to Juliet Moderow for facilitating mailings over the past four years.

**Would you like to become a NEW Member or give a GIFT membership?** Two types of membership are available:

**1. Northwest Illinois Bird and Nature Alliance and National Membership** includes this local newsletter, local mailings and the national "Audubon" magazine.

\_\_\_\_\_ National Membership \$20

All renewals for national memberships need to use the national membership form.

**2. Northwest Illinois Bird and Nature Alliance Local only Membership** includes this newsletter and other mailings from our local chapter.

\_\_\_\_\_ Local Only \$15

Name of new member or gift recipient \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

If this is a gift membership, please indicate the name of the person providing the gift membership:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to **Northwest Illinois Bird and Nature Alliance** and mail to:  
Treasurer, NIBANA, P.O. Box 771, Freeport, IL 61032

**BOARD MEMBERS**

- President** | Teresa Smith
- Vice-President** | Steve Simpson
- Secretary** | Elizabeth Boettner
- Treasurer** | Mary Blackmore

**Board members At-Large:**  
Leah Dixon, Fran Shriver, Kee Henze,  
Gay Brooks, Pam Richards, Carol Beatty

**COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

- Membership** | (open)
- Programs** | Don Miller
- Conservation** | Laura Dufford
- Education** | Juliet Moderow
- Publicity** | Sarah Barron
- Field Trips** | Chris Kruger
- Equity, Diversity, Inclusion (ad hoc)**  
Juliet Moderow and Gary Gordon
- Newsletter Layout** | Dan Barron  
56781 W. Fawn Drive | Steuben, WI 54657  
815-541-3261 | dan@driftlessflora.com

[nwilbirdnaturealliance@gmail.com](mailto:nwilbirdnaturealliance@gmail.com)

rev 1/25

**NEW SPECIES AT OUR PRESERVES**

New species continue to be observed at our preserves. Many thanks to everyone who helped to locate and identify these additions. For a complete species list for each preserve, consult our website or call Mary at 815-938-3204.

**ELKHORN CREEK (3)**

**PLANTS:**

- Pale Spiked Lobelia (*Lobelia spicata*) ▶
- Switch Grass (*Panicum virgatum*)

**INSECTS:**

Moths: Arcigera Flower Moth

**SILVER CREEK (3)**

**PLANTS:**

- Downy Sunflower (*Helianthus mollis*)
- Sweet Black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia subtomentosa*)

**INSECTS:**

Butterflies: Summer Azure



Pale Spiked Lobelia (*Lobelia spicata*)

**ADDRESS CHANGES FOR USPS**

If you have recently changed your USPS address, let us know so we can send your newsletter to the correct address. If newsletters are returned to us because of an incorrect address, it can take several weeks for the USPS to return the item to us with your new address and thus you would receive the newsletter much later.

You can email us at

[nwilbirdnaturealliance@gmail.com](mailto:nwilbirdnaturealliance@gmail.com)

or call 815-238-3963 with any change of address information.



Illustrations by Carol Litus

**NORTHWEST ILLINOIS  
BIRD AND NATURE ALLIANCE**

P.O. Box 771  
Freeport, IL 61032-0771

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

NONPROFIT ORG  
US POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
FREEPORT, IL  
PERMIT NO. 97

*This newsletter was printed on Exact Eco 100 paper. It is made with 100% recycled post-consumer use fiber and is processed chlorine-free.*



**ADDRESSES/EMAILS OF YOUR LEGISLATORS**

**Capitol Switchboard (202) 224-3121 • State House Switchboard (217) 782-2000**

*When using the state switchboard simply ask to be connected to the legislators office.  
When using the capitol switchboard follow the series of prompts.*

**FEDERAL**

**Senator Richard Durbin**

230 S. Dearborn, Suite 3892,  
Chicago, IL 60604  
[www.durbin.senate.gov/contact/](http://www.durbin.senate.gov/contact/)

**Senator Tammy Duckworth**

230 S Dearborn Suite 3900,  
Chicago, IL 60604  
312-886-3506  
[www.duckworth.senate.gov/connect/](http://www.duckworth.senate.gov/connect/)

**16th District Rep. Darin LaHood**

100 NE Monroe Street, Room 100,  
Peoria, IL 61602  
309-671-7027 | <https://lahood.house.gov/>

**17th District Rep. Eric Sorenson**

2401 4th Ave., Rock Island IL 61201  
<https://sorensen.house.gov/>

**STATE**

**45th District Sen.**

**Andrew Chesney**  
50 W. Douglas Street, Suite 1001,  
Freeport, IL 61032  
[Chesney@ilhousegop.org](mailto:Chesney@ilhousegop.org)

**36th District Sen.**

**Michael Halpin**  
1504 3rd Ave., 2nd Floor,  
County Office Bldg.,  
Rock Island, IL 61201  
309-558-3612 | [RepHalpin@gmail.com](mailto:RepHalpin@gmail.com)

**90th District Rep.**

**John Cabello**  
1702 Hutchins Road  
Machesney Park, IL 61115  
815-974-0090 | [cabello@illinoishousegop.org](mailto:cabello@illinoishousegop.org)

**89th District Rep.**

**Tony McCombie**  
9317B IL Route 84  
Savanna, IL 61074  
815-291-8989  
[mccombie@ilhousegop.org](mailto:mccombie@ilhousegop.org)

**74th District Rep Brad Fritts**

101 W 1st Street Suite 501  
Dixon, IL 61021  
[fritts@ilhousegop.org](mailto:fritts@ilhousegop.org)

**71st District Rep.**

**Daniel Swanson**  
275 N. Division St., PO Box 173,  
Woodhull, IL 61490  
309-334-7474 | [swanson@ilhousegop.org](mailto:swanson@ilhousegop.org)